

TEN-YEAR PLAN



Federal Actions to Address Impacts of Uranium Contamination on the Navajo Nation 2020-2029



August 18, 2020

Background of 10 Year Plan

- The [2008-2012 Five-Year Plan](#) was the first coordinated effort by the federal government to address uranium contamination on the Navajo Nation. The Plan outlined a strategy for gaining a better understanding of the scope of the problem and for addressing the greatest risks first.
- The [2014-2018 Five-Year Plan](#) builds on the work of the first 2008 Plan, making adjustments based on information gained during that period, and identifying the next steps in addressing the most significant risks to human health and the environment. The effort focused on the most imminent risks to people living on the Navajo Nation.



Ten-Year Plan Outline

- BACKGROUND
- SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- REPORT OF FUNDING
- GOALS FOR NEXT 10 YEARS

SUMMARY OF GOALS FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS

Abandoned Uranium Mines



Complete assessments of remaining 134

funded mines and initiate cleanup for all sites where a cleanup plan / design is finalized by 2024.

Former Mills



Continue long-term groundwater remediation, monitoring, surveillance, and maintenance activities for Shiprock, Tuba City, Monument Valley, and Mexican Hat.

Contaminated Structures



Assess and scan structures in the six abandoned uranium mines regions and refer those with elevated levels of radiation to EPA for follow-up actions.

Water



EPA will continue assessing the San Mateo Creek Basin and conduct water studies at the Claim 28 mine, the North-east Church Rock / Quivira mining complex, and another mine to be funded by the U.S. / Navajo Phase 2 settlement.

Drinking Water



IHS and EPA will continue to increase access to safe drinking water in the abandoned uranium mine regions of the Navajo Nation by funding high-ranking water infrastructure projects with available funds.

Health



IHS will continue to provide community-based services, radiation exposure screening and education program services, collaborate with NNDOH epidemiology program, and coordinate training with ATSDR to clinicians and health care providers on non-occupational exposure to uranium.

Community Involvement



Expand community outreach through increased communication and coordination about uranium related issues.

Workforce Development



Increase hiring of Navajo individuals and companies in addressing uranium issues on the Navajo Nation.

Ten-Year Plan Outline

Section	Lead Agency
Abandoned Uranium Mines	EPA
Former Mills	DOE and NRC
Contaminated Structures	EPA
Water	EPA
Drinking Water	IHS
Health	IHS and ATSDR
Community Involvement	All
Workforce Development	EPA

Ten-Year Plan Status

October 2019 – Distributed the first draft of TYP for 45-day review.

January 2020 - Distributed 2nd draft of the TYP for 45-day review.

January 23, 2020 – Consultation with Navajo Nation Office of President/Vice President (OP/VP) on EPA's sections of the TYP.

February 28, 2020 – Consultation with Navajo Nation Council on EPA's sections of the TYP.

April 2020 – Ten-Year Plan is added to the Administrator's Emphasis List: "Finalize the TYP before end of FY2020".

July 2020 – Distributed 3rd draft of the TYP for 30-day review.

Ten-Year Plan Next Steps

August 18, 2020 – Consultation with Navajo Nation OP/VP and Council.

August 31, 2020 – Submit 4th draft of the TYP to EPA Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR).

September 14, 2020 – Submit final draft of the TYP to OMB (AEL Commitment).

Overview of EPA Sections



- Abandoned Uranium Mines
- Contaminated Structures Program
- Water
- Community Outreach Network
- Navajo Work Force Development

Major Comments from Navajo Consultation



- Milestones are needed to demonstrate progress.
- Support job development and economic growth on the Navajo Nation.
- Support capacity development of Navajo Nation agencies and expand the role of Navajo Nation agencies in the investigation and cleanup process.
- Incorporate Navajo Fundamental Law and Traditional Ecological Knowledge in CERCLA decision making and activities.
- Ensure surface water and groundwater are protected.

SUPERFUND PROCESS

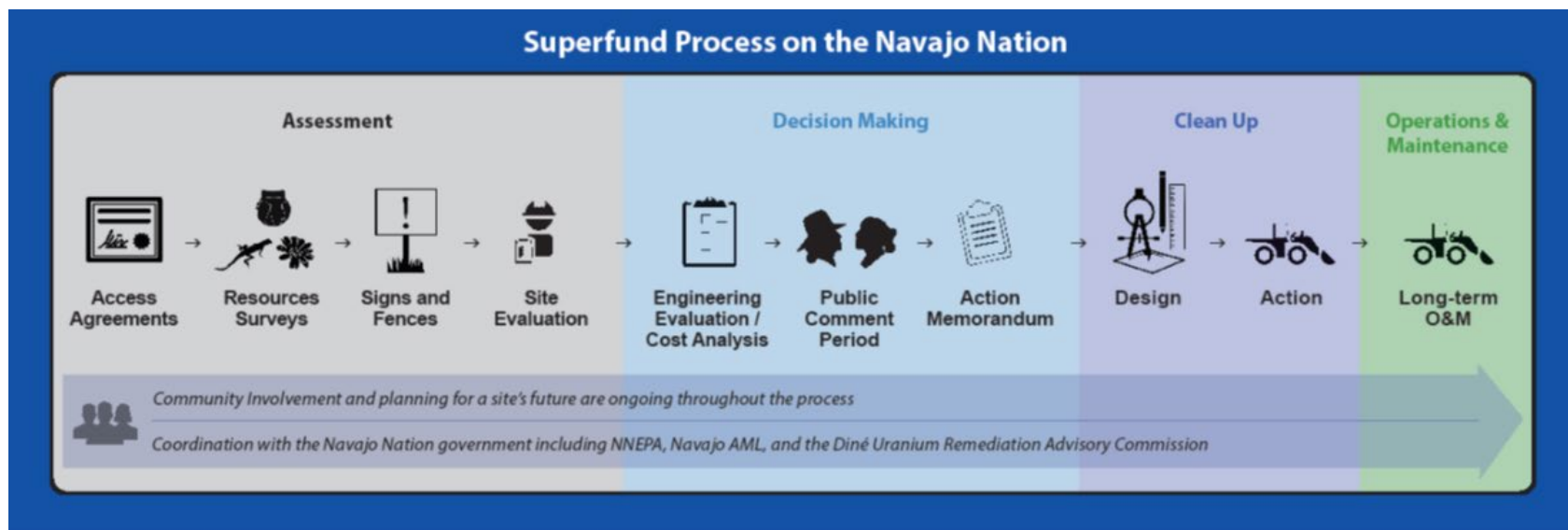


Assessment

Decision Making

Clean-up

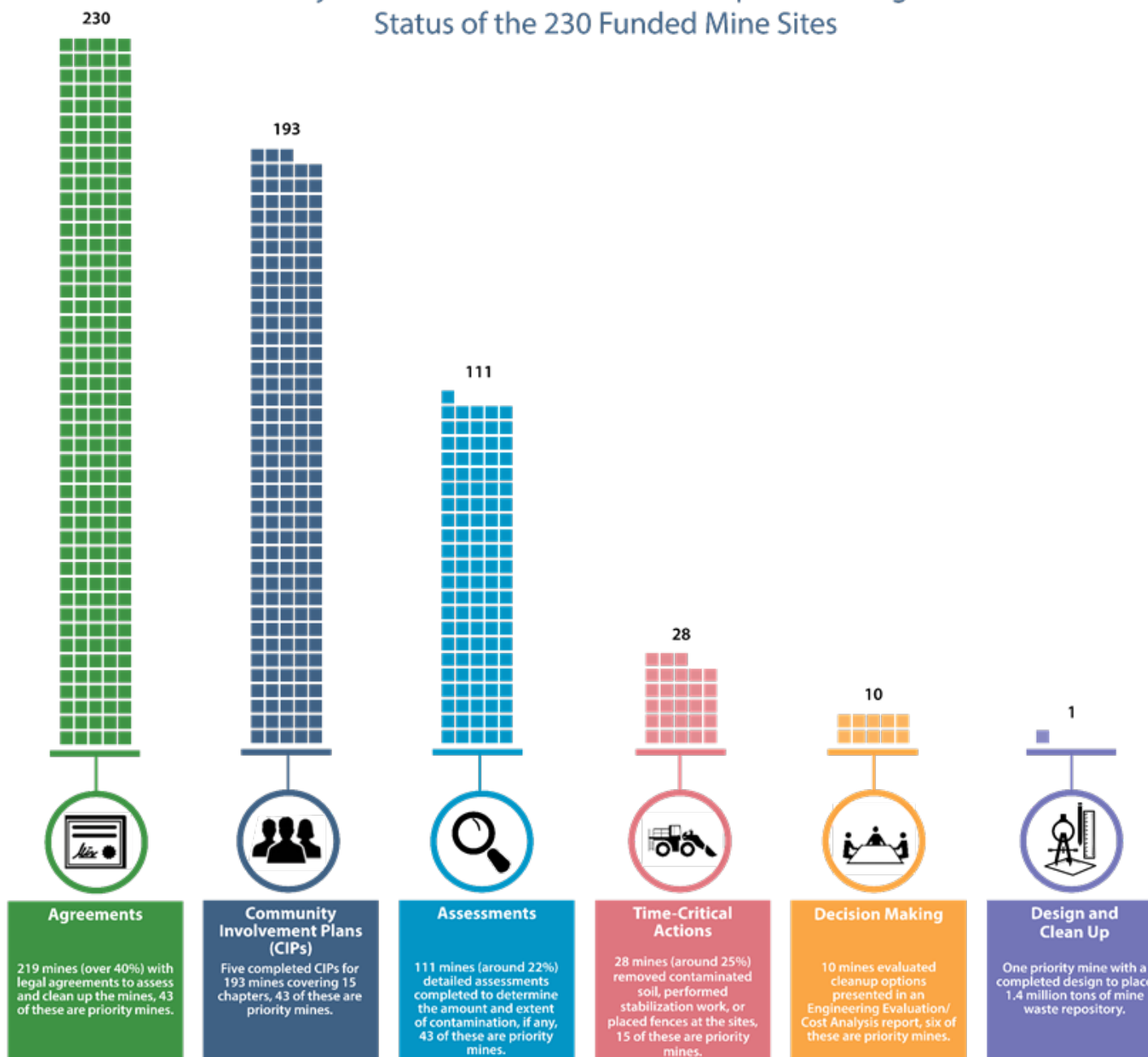
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ABANDONED URANIUM MINES



Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine Superfund Progress Status of the 230 Funded Mine Sites



GOALS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS



Assess and Clean-up Abandoned Uranium Mine Sites

EPA will work with the Navajo Nation EPA toward completing the investigation and cleanup at the 230 mine sites where EPA and the Navajo Nation have secured funding or a commitment to perform work.

Milestone	Number of Mine Sites by Year*							
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Assessment	84		100					
	46							
EE/CA		30	4		30		50	
	20		26					
Design			30	4		30		50
		20		26				
Cleanup				30	4		30	
			20		26			

*Priority mine sites are shown in yellow-shaded rows.

GOALS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS



Bolster Navajo Nation Capacity

EPA will work with the Navajo Nation to bolster the capacity of Navajo Nation agencies, including Navajo Nation EPA and Navajo Abandon Mine Lands, to perform assessments, cleanups and the long-term operation and maintenance of cleanups at abandoned uranium mine sites.

Milestones supporting this goal are listed below and will be updated and reported on annually.

- **By 2022**, develop a plan, including an implementation schedule, for expanding Navajo Nation EPA's role in overseeing and conducting the assessment and cleanup of mine sites.
- **By 2024**, develop a plan, including an implementation schedule, for Navajo Nation agencies to implement long-term operation and maintenance measures at mine sites.
- Once finalized, these plans will be appended to this Ten-Year Plan.

GOALS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS



Community Involvement

EPA will continue to involve communities and Chapter officials in the assessment and cleanup process to ensure that EPA understands community concerns and considers community goals in the CERCLA decision-making process.

Navajo Fundamental Law

EPA will continue to coordinate closely with the Navajo Nation to ensure that the Navajo Government is consulted and that Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Navajo Fundamental Law is incorporated in the CERCLA decision-making process.

Long-term Operation and Maintenance

EPA will work with the Navajo Nation to develop an approach for implementing long-term operation and maintenance measures at mine sites, including roles and responsibilities, to ensure that the selected cleanup options remain protective of human health and the environment.

GOALS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS



Address Unfunded Mine Sites

EPA will continue to work with the Navajo Nation and federal partner agencies to find additional sources of funding and/or support to complete detailed assessments at the approximately 300 abandoned uranium mines that are not presently funded under existing settlement or enforcement agreements.

Increase USEPA Field Presence

EPA will continue to explore avenues for EPA to have a greater field presence on and near the Navajo Nation in order to effectively implement and support the goals described in this plan.

GOALS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS



Contaminated Structure Removal



New Replacement Home

Remediate Contaminated Structures

Implement removal actions where contaminated structures and surrounding soils are found to pose a risk to residents.

Data Management System

By 2023, the agencies will have a standard data sharing agreement that covers relevant and digital data for the structures program and gives EPA and Navajo EPA full and equal access to records.

GOALS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS



STRUCTURES

Bolster Navajo Nation Capacity

Work with the Navajo Nation to bolster the capacity of Navajo Nation EPA to assess homes for the Contaminated Structures Program by 2023, coordinating with US EPA as appropriate. The following milestones will need to be achieved prior to Navajo Nation EPA assessing homes:

- US EPA and NN EPA will need to jointly finish a Program Manual, including field procedures for assessment;
- US EPA and NN EPA staff will need to complete mutual training on technical and program procedures;
- US EPA and NN EPA will identify dedicated technical and programmatic leads, and will need to have sufficient staff resources devoted to the structures program; and
- NN EPA will need to have access to sufficient contracting support that can implement the field procedures in the Program Manual.

GOALS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS



WATER

- Complete two studies to investigate potential impacts to surface water and groundwater under the U.S./Navajo Phase 2 Trust Settlement.
- Conduct water studies at the Northeast Church Rock/ Quivira mining complex.
- Continue assessing the San Mateo Creek Basin.
- Conduct groundwater and/or surface water investigations where assessments show a potential impact to water from mine sites.
- Coordinate with NNEPA to ensure that cleanup options implemented at AUM sites are protective of surface water and groundwater.



Objective: Enhanced Coordinated Outreach and Education

- Increase education on uranium and radioactivity
- Knowledge enhancement through courseware sharing
- Community Open Houses, Site Tours, and Community Events
- Increase multi-agency collaboration on uranium issues

GOALS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS



Build Capacity and hire Navajo individuals and companies

- Use contract evaluation criteria and outreach tools to maximizes employment opportunities for Navajo people while building capacity with local business and institutions to perform the work.

Promote jobs and business opportunities, with support of the Navajo Nation

- Encourage EPA and potentially responsible party contractors to advertise jobs on the Navajo Nation via different methods—radio, newspaper, or a centralized location where Navajo opportunities are published.
- Conduct a general “Industry Days” job fair for all major contract opportunities related to this program.
- Consult with Navajo Labor Workforce Development agencies to support and attend outreach events

Thank you

